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Peacebuilding Commission
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Draft conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the current situation in Guinea-Bissau

The Peacebuilding Commission,

Noting that the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the Peacebuilding Commission adopted the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding on 1 October 2008, that the Commission and the Government agreed to track progress towards the implementation of the commitments in the Strategic Framework through a regular review process, and that the period covered by the first review exercise is 1 October 2008 to 30 October 2009,

Also noting that the review exercise was undertaken under the leadership of the Government through the National Steering Committee for Peacebuilding and thematic working groups, with support from the United Nations and on the basis of broad consultations with civil society and representatives of the international community in Guinea-Bissau, including regional organizations and international financial institutions,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the National Electoral Commission and national political actors towards the successful holding of parliamentary and Presidential elections, in accordance with international standards, and expresses appreciation to the international community and the United Nations for their contributions to the electoral processes, including through international observer missions;

2. *Notes* the progress made in improving public finance, in particular the Government's efforts to normalize the payment of civil servants' salaries, and welcomes the adoption of a Private Investment Act as well as ongoing efforts to create an enabling environment for the private sector;

3. *Welcomes* the completion of the census of the Guinea-Bissau Armed Forces and the War Veterans; encourages the military to remain engaged in the security sector reform process; welcomes the steps taken by the Government towards the adoption of a legislative framework for the pensions fund; and looks forward to an early completion of the legislative process of the security sector reform process, in full consultation with relevant partners;

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4. *Welcomes* the ongoing reform of the justice sector, including the adoption of relevant legislation and capacity-building efforts; and highlights the need to further integrate judicial reform and the national security sector reform strategy and to redouble efforts to fight impunity and corruption and strengthen the institutional capacity of the police and the judiciary;

5. *Stresses* the need for the international community to contribute, with determination, to the fight against illicit transnational drug-trafficking and organized criminal networks, including through measures to curb demand for narcotics;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the elaboration of the National Plan for the Reform and Capacity-Building of Public Administration, which serves as a key framework for the country's engagement with its partners;

7. *Notes with concern* the persistent challenges in the areas of youth unemployment, poverty and the delivery of basic social services, particularly in the health and education sectors, which could undermine the peacebuilding process;

8. *Expresses concern* with regard to the regional threats to peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau, and notes with appreciation the efforts of partners, including the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime, to address those threats; and in this regard, underlines the need for the international community to address the threats posed by the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, including through their collection and destruction;

9. *Endorses the following recommendations* made in the context of the review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding, taking into account the priorities set out in the Strategic Framework as well as the views expressed in the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Framework prepared by the Government of Guinea-Bissau:

To the Government of Guinea-Bissau:

(a) To continue to implement the national security sector and defence strategy as a matter of priority, in full coordination with the European Union and other international partners and with the support of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, in particular by expediting the creation of a pension fund and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration schemes; concluding the census of the security forces; redefining the role of different security forces; reinvigorating the inter-ministerial Steering Committee that oversees the security sector reform process; and organizing a round table on security sector reform in which a prioritized and costed security sector reform implementation plan, with clear allocations of responsibility within the Government, is presented;

(b) To make every effort towards the full implementation of the national Anti-Narcotics Operational Plan adopted in 2007, with an emphasis on reinforcing the fight against illicit drug-trafficking and organized crime and on international cooperation in criminal matters;

(c) To continue to address cross-border security threats to the peacebuilding process by cooperating with neighbouring countries and regional actors, in particular the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States;

and to continue to build capacity to combat the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, including through their collection and destruction;

(d) To continue, as a matter of high importance, efforts towards reforming the justice sector, including on aspects related to judicial personnel; enhancing the fight against corruption and impunity, including through the adoption of necessary legislation and the rehabilitation of judicial infrastructure; and expediting the work of the Commission of Inquiry into the political assassinations committed in March and June 2009;

(e) To consolidate the progress achieved in public finances, in particular to develop strategies to diversify and add value to exports; to take further steps to create an enabling environment for increased private investment; and to continue to address bottlenecks in infrastructure, in particular in the energy sector;

(f) To continue the necessary reforms and measures to address the socio-economic challenges facing the country, especially the immediate concerns of youth, women and other vulnerable groups, in the light of their potential impact on the peacebuilding process;

(g) To engage partners on the implementation of the National Plan for the Reform and Capacity-Building of Public Administration; to review organic laws with a view to ensuring a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the civil service; to finalize a study on a public pension fund; to create an electronic system (data centre) for the management of public sector information; and to enhance efforts to improve the training of civil servants, including through the establishment of a national academy for public administration;

(h) To enhance dialogue and reconciliation among political parties and national stakeholders; to adopt the necessary legislation for the upcoming local elections; to take into account the lessons learned in organizing past elections; and to continue to enhance the capacity and autonomy of the National Electoral Commission;

(i) To continue to integrate a gender perspective in peacebuilding efforts in the country;

(j) To collaborate fully with the new United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau in order to ensure adequate support for and coordination of all peace consolidation efforts, especially the range of security sector reform activities being supported by bilateral and multilateral partners;

To the Peacebuilding Commission:

(k) To enhance, with the support of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, coordination among partners involved in the reform of the security sector, in particular the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States and bilateral partners, to ensure that current and future international assistance is consistent with the priorities articulated by the Government and to continue to mobilize resources to address priority areas, such as the implementation of essential security sector reform legislation and the establishment of a pension fund;

(l) To continue to attach high priority to supporting the Government in implementing the national Anti-Narcotics Operational Plan, in particular with regard

to the fight against illicit drug trafficking and organized crime, including through the West Africa Coast Initiative and other forms of cooperation aimed at ensuring the successful prosecution of traffickers;

(m) To continue to take into consideration the regional dimension of peacebuilding by collaborating and sharing lessons learned among country-specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission, encouraging coordination among regional actors and supporting the Government in its engagement with neighbouring countries; and to support, in this connection, national and regional initiatives to tackle the threats posed by the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons;

(n) To continue to support the Government in pursuing justice sector reform and strengthening judicial mechanisms and institutions as a matter of high importance for the peacebuilding process; and to support the work of the national Commission of Inquiry into the political assassinations committed in 2009;

(o) To assist the Government in consolidating progress achieved in public finance; to support steps to create an enabling environment for private investment; to continue to advocate with all partners for the implementation of programmes to overcome bottlenecks in infrastructure, in particular in the energy sector; and to encourage the achievement of the completion point under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative;

(p) To assist the Government in addressing the development dimension of the peacebuilding process, including the challenges in the social sectors, which if left unattended will undermine the peacebuilding process in the country;

(q) To provide support for the implementation of the National Plan for the Reform and Capacity-Building of Public Administration and to mobilize resources for the training of civil servants, including through the establishment of a national academy for public administration;

(r) To support an inclusive national dialogue among political parties and stakeholders, and to mobilize resources to enhance the capacity of the National Electoral Commission with a view to the organization of the upcoming local elections;

(s) To continue to support the Government, in coordination with relevant stakeholders, in integrating a gender dimension in all peacebuilding efforts in the country;

(t) To support the full functioning of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau as a critical step towards enhancing the coordination of the relevant partners involved in peace consolidation efforts.